

# American Fencing



.... A Merry Season to All ....

**FENCERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The men appearing in this column are fencers. Their listing is an asset to American Fencing and as such merits the good will of all fencers. Our special rates are low. Write to us.

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Volume I has been attractively bound between yellow covers with stiff-back plastic rings. The edition is very limited and includes the special National Championship cover for June which was distributed only at Gala Night.

This valuable reference book, with perfect copies of every issue published last season, will be an attractive addition to your library. Every Division and Club should have a copy for their permanent record.

Copies are available for \$5.00 — First come first served.

**FROM FRANCE**

By **PIERRE PARET**

The fencing year began in Paris on October 8th with the Prix d'Automne at the Gymnase Huyghens. This competition is held annually for male foil fencers who have not yet reached the top categories.

The more than fifty contestants, whose ages ranged from 15 to 40 or more, were divided into round-robins for the preliminaries. Direct elimination was used after that.

With few exceptions fencing did not rise above the level of Juniors in the U. S. Footwork, generally speaking, was very limited, and apparently no great emphasis was placed on form. No fencer used an Italian weapon. The contestants did most of the judging themselves; the directors were ranking fencers, among them Rommel, the French Champion.

**Summary.** Semi-finals: Mionnet beat Barbezat 5-4, 5-3; Dhyvert beat Houbiers 5-1, 4-5, 5-3. Finals: Dhyvert beat Mionnet 5-3, 5-2.

Deadline for Next Issue: January 15.

**Montreal Annual Tournament**

**James H. Flynn Scores Double Victory**

The annual invitation event sponsored by the Province of Quebec Fencing Association was held on Oct. 7 and 8 and drew several entries from the U. S.

The Joey Richman Trophy for sabre was won by Dr. James Flynn of New Jersey and the New York A. C.; Carl Schwende of Montreal placed second.

Flynn scored his second victory in the epee, winning the McConnell Trophy after a fence-off with Robert Gravel of Montreal.

In the women's foil, Mrs. J. C. Vokral of Philadelphia placed first and Mrs. Betty Hamilton of Montreal second.

The tournament has become very popular and the Canadians want to encourage as many Americans as possible to make the trip up to Montreal. With this in mind, they plan to schedule next year's event during the Labor Day week-end.

# AMERICAN FENCING

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**Editorial Office**  
J. R. de Capriles, Editor  
81 Ridgewood Terrace  
Chappaqua, N. Y.

**Publishing Office**  
W. L. Osborn, Publisher  
1712 Grand Central Terminal  
New York 17, N. Y.

**Contributing Editors**  
S. Breckinridge  
M. de Capriles  
D. Every  
M. Garret

**Contributing Editors**  
J. Honeycutt  
T. Jaeckel  
F. Linkmeyer  
H. Van Buskirk

**Correspondents**  
E. Atkin, R. Cardozo, J. Flynn, D. Friedman, D. Funke, J. Kingsley, H. Klein, L. Olvin,  
P. Paret, D. Rice, A. Rodner, L. Sobel, S. Velarde.

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No anonymous articles accepted.

Changes of address should reach us promptly. Give us both the new and old address.

With the new season gaining momentum, we urge all fencers to devote themselves more wholeheartedly to the promotion of the sport and the AFLA. The one is synonymous to the other, for we can achieve a great national growth only through a strong central organization. Interest your friends in fencing and encourage them to join the AFLA.

**A Merry Xmas, Happy New Year, and Our Best Wishes for a Successful Fencing Season.**  
—The Staff

**Harry Theile Klein**

We were sorry to note that the Amateur Swordsman has discontinued publication after filling a necessary need for a period of two and a half years.

Soon after the War, and prior to the appearance of American Fencing, Harry Theile Klein undertook to furnish the sport with a much needed news medium. We are well aware of the tremendous effort that this represents and believe that fencers, especially those in California, owe him a debt of gratitude.

Although we did not agree with some of his editorial policy, we respected him for his efforts in behalf of the sport and are pleased to announce that he has agreed to continue to express his interest as a member of our Staff.

**Shopping Hints**

A clever new game for children from 6 to 60, "Duelette" is available at \$2.98 through Castello. The weapons consist of 39" hardwood blades and aluminum guards, with red disk targets attached to a ring at one side of the rubber-tipped ends. The weapons come in an attractive black bag. Object of game: to push out the opponent's red disk target. It's fun.

Miniature foils and masks for youngsters too young to use regular equipment available through Santelli at \$3.60 a set of two each.

Books on the history and technique of fencing, as well as on all phases of duelling, are available through the American Library Service, 117 W. 48 St., N. Y. 19. Wide variety from "III Duello; Del Munitie" published in 1576 in Venice to the most modern texts. They'll furnish you with list and prices upon request.

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**NOTICE  
TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS**

In reporting competitions please send us first and last names of all contestants as well as club affiliations. Final round scores are also desired.

**NEED SOME?**

The following items may be purchased from the A.F.L.A. by sending the money and order to Mr. Chester Tuthill, 509 W. 121 St., N. Y. 27:

Score pads with official order of bouts—team or individual—\$2. each; Spectator leaflets \$1. per hundred; Bout Committee report pads \$2. each; AFLA sleeve emblems 25¢ each; Gold, Silver and Bronze stars to indicate fencing rank 25¢ each.



**JAMES H. FLYNN**

## Official AFLA Notes

DERNELL EVERY, Secretary

### Charters Awarded Florida And Border Divisions

On September 13, 1950, the Board of Governors approved the formation of two new A.F.L.A. Divisions upon written petitions received from enthusiastic fencing groups in each of these territories.

A Florida Division was approved to include all territory within the State of Florida. Its officers are to be: Mrs. Lucille Heintz, Chairman; Mrs. Una Carr, Secretary; and Meltoon Augustine, Treasurer.

A Border Division which is to include part of Texas was approved with the consent of the two Divisions previously sharing the State of Texas. The new Border Division will include that territory in Texas which is west of the 103rd meridian of longitude and all of the States of Arizona and New Mexico. Its officers are to be: Albert B. Weber, Chairman; Ernest Bourjailey, Secretary; and Dudley L. Stillinger, Treasurer.

#### CORRECTION!

In the last issue, listing the National Epee Rankings, we commissioned Midshipman P. W. Utterback a bit prematurely. We had no intention of embarrassing the Naval Academy's star who is eligible for intercollegiate competition until June, 1951. Excuse it please.

#### Note:

### EPEE RULE CHANGE

The AFLA has adopted the new international rule which provides that there no longer shall be a double loss in epee. The effect is to bring this weapon into conformity with the foil and sabre. Double touches will score against each fencer except in the case where such double touch would result in a 3-all score. All tie bouts must be fenced out and the score is to be registered as 3-2 regardless of the number of touches required to obtain a decision. The principle applied when time runs out is also the same as is now used in foil and sabre.

This new rule was adopted by the F.I.E. Congress in March and should be put into effect immediately by all AFLA organizations.

## CONCERNING THE 1950 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By LOUIS (LAJOS) CSISZAR

Coach, University of Pennsylvania

The results of the 1950 World Championships are surprising and evoke serious thoughts. The greatest of all is this: the sabre title was not won by an Italian (in the absence of the Hungarians) but by a relatively inexperienced young Frenchman. In the past the French seldom even reached the finals in sabre; the weapon was the private affair of Hungary and Italy. How could this happen? True, the Italians lost some good men during the war but there still remained Pinton, Dare, Nostini, Montano, etc., as well as a good number of young ones.

During my practice in Hungary I often noticed when a young fencer with a good game suddenly broke forward. This was due to the psychological fact that he risked far less than his elders and surprised the latter by unorthodox fencing—gambling more with less at stake. Yet such a young man was not able to win the sabre championship. There is considerable difference in this respect between sabre and epee. I have seen Shurtz fence in the last American Nationals. In spite of his youth he fenced excellently and outwitted the oldest men in foil and epee, but when it came to sabre his exceptional talent was not enough. This proves that sabre fencing is a special art which requires very much experience and many years training.

Thus the answer to the riddle of the 1950 World Sabre Championship must be the industry of the French and their Latin genius. They decided in 1947 to concentrate on sabre fencing. The Hungarian Fencing Association was not then fully behind the Iron Curtain and the French asked two Hungarian masters to come to Paris. I, too, was considered, but was then hopeful of coming to the United States and, therefore, refused with the advice that they take a very good friend of mine. The French made up their mind to concentrate upon that branch of the sport which they had heretofore neglected; they decided to bring up their sabre to a par with their epee and foil. My friend went to Paris and was instrumental in changing the traditional French methods and obtaining acceptance of the Hungarian school. This

intelligent flexibility on the part of the French has produced results; a new era in the history of French sabre fencing has begun.

There are innovations occurring daily in poetry, the fine arts, the sciences, etc. It is so with fencing. The final lesson, therefore, is that inasmuch as we have three branches of fencing all three have their own techniques and it is somewhat futile to adopt the technique of one to the others. It should be studied separately. The French did this and the result was an unexpected victory. Previously Hungary and Italy regarded their opponents in sabre as mere sparring partners. This is no longer true.

The lesson is very much applicable to the United States. Our fencers have already proved that they are in some instances on a par with the Europeans and all that is missing is the effusion of the fencing spirit into the masses. With a willingness to learn as seriously as that demonstrated by the French, I am convinced that after a few years an American World Champion will be in the realm of probability.

I was glad to note the comment made by the President of the AFLA in his annual message regarding the college fencers. The President recognizes, as I do, that our great reservoir consists of college fencers; they are the ones who will be able to carry American fencing to new heights. I have spent now three years in this country and am confident we can follow the road forward. College fencing is being organized in an excellent manner throughout the country. There is, however, one field where much must be done and this regards judging. Let us not forget the older fencers who may not compete in championships any more but can make excellent officials. We should organize judging courses or at least have round table discussions of the rules. We can advance only if the judging and regulations keep in step with our advances in fencing technique. If mistakes, inexperience and other factors hamper the development of fencing many young talents will be discouraged. My experience in Hungary showed that a young fencer, however talented, cannot survive for long the disillusionment of bad officiating.

(Editor's Note: Without in any way detracting from Mr. Csiszar's observations, we wish to point out that the World Sabre Champion, Jean Levavasseur, is the son of a famous French sabre fencing master whose pupils include Lefevre and Parent who placed fourth and fifth in the Championships. All three of these men showed strength in the 1948 Olympic Games. While the Hungarian coaches may well be responsible for the finishing touches, Maître Levavasseur deserves much of the credit.)

### SAMUEL THOMPSON STEWART, JR.

American fencing was shocked by the sudden, premature death of Sam Stewart on September 18, 1950.

Sam began fencing at CCNY and was captain of the 1933 team. Upon graduation he joined the Salle d'Armes Vince and in 1936 became a member of the New York A. C.

A brilliant sabreman, and finalist in several National Championships, he reached his peak in 1936 when selected for the Olympic Team and turned in a good performance at Berlin. He was a member of four National Sabre Championship Teams and served the League well as a member of the Board of Governors for several years.

His sportsmanship and great charm won the respect and warm friendship of all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Elise, and two sons, Russell and Mark.

#### PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Those trying out for the Games should understand that the ones selected will leave N. Y. on February 18th and will return on or about March 20th. The Games run from February 28th to March 14th.

## DUELLING SWORD NOT A RAPIER

(From "Amateurs at Arms," a syndicated column compiled by the American Academy of Arms and issued by the American Gunsmiths Guild.)

"Saw a movie, one of those romantic films where the hero draws his trusty blade and gives the villain a much needed pruning. Later one of those windy guys who know-it-all declared 'duelling sword' and 'rapier' are just two names for the same weapon. Dared not contradict him because what I know about swords you could write on a postage stamp with a whitewash brush. Can you provide a few facts I can heave at that windy guy next time he starts popping-off?"

Warrant Officer C.S.S. Air Corps

A rapier weighs from two to six pounds and has a straight double-edged blade measuring from thirty-six to forty-odd inches. A pommel balances the sword so it is well adapted to deliver a thrust, yet effective cuts with either edge are possible. The Italians evolved an elaborate basket-hilt to protect the hand and the Spaniards a simpler and more effective bell guard. This type of sword appeared during the early fifteen hundreds and was the gentle-

men's side arm for two centuries. It demonstrated the point is far more effective than the edge. The first duels, as we understand them today, were fought with rapiers. Because of the weight of the weapon, the play is deliberate, much slower than modern fencing; well suited to costume pictures in technicolor.

The rapier's legitimate son, the Small Sword, was evolved and perfected in France twix 1685 and 1725, being what the name implies, a small sword, weighing from twelve to fourteen ounces and having a twenty-eight to thirty-four inch blade, usually without an edge, triangular and fluted like the bayonets on the old Civil War muskets that were patterned after the small sword. The channels and ridges provide rigidity with minimum of weight, something all light double edge blades sadly lack. A limber, whippy blade is useless on any type of sword.

The modern duelling sword, known among fencers as an "epee" (the French word for sword) appeared in the fencing schools about 1890. It has the triangular, fluted blade of the small sword and a deep five-and-one-quarter inch bell guard patterned after the old Spanish rapier.

The rapier, the small sword and the modern duelling sword have just this in common: All are designed to inflict a penetrating wound with the point.

## London F. C. Holds

### Centenary Gala

The London F. C., founded in 1848, is the oldest active fencing club in the world and has had a proud international record. A Centenary Gala, held on October 6th, presented exhibitions and bouts by some of the outstanding professionals and amateurs in international circles, including: Miss Renee Garilhe, 1950 World Champion; Mrs. Glen Haig, 1950 British Empire Champion; Mr. Jehan Buhan, 1948 Olympic Foil Champion; Mr. Dario Mangiarotti, 1949 World Epee Champion; Mr. Bela Mikla, 1950 Hungarian Sabre Champion; Mr. Rene Paul, 1950 British Empire Foil Champion; and Mr. J. Emrys Lloyd, seven-time Foil Champion of Great Britain.



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## NATIONAL RANKINGS (Continued from last issue)

## 1941-42 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss H. Mayer
2. Miss H. Mroczkowska
3. Mrs. M. L. Vince
4. Miss M. Cerra
5. Mrs. J. C. Vokral
6. Miss M. Dalton
7. Mrs. D. Funke
8. Miss B. L. Cochrane
9. Miss P. Sweeney
10. (Mrs. L. Oppenheim  
(Miss M. I. Stewart

## Epee

1. Capt. G. M. Heiss, USA
2. A. Boyd
3. H. Santos
4. M. Metzger
5. J. R. de Capriles
6. K. Kapner
7. M. A. de Capriles
8. E. Guirola
9. W. H. Goldsmith
10. (J. H. Flynn  
(P. Mijer

## Foil

1. D. Cetrulo
2. J. R. Huffman
3. S. Giolito
4. A. R. Snyder
5. W. A. Dow
6. D. Every
7. N. L. Lewis
8. N. Lubell
9. J. R. de Capriles
10. A. Tauber

## Sabre

1. N. C. Armitage
2. J. R. Huffman
3. M. A. de Capriles
4. T. Nyilas
5. D. Cetrulo
6. G. V. Worth
7. N. Muray
8. R. E. Marson
9. J. R. de Capriles
10. (E. S. Acel  
(J. H. Flynn

## 1944-45 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss M. Dalton
2. Mrs. H. Mroczkowska Dow
3. Miss M. Cerra
4. Miss D. Lancaster
5. Mrs. D. Funke
6. Miss D. Wahl
7. Mrs. G. Acel Uthoff
8. Miss P. Sweeney
9. Miss R. A. Maxwell
10. (Miss H. Brackley  
(Miss A. Condosta

## Epee\*

1. M. A. de Capriles
2. P. Mijer
3. J. H. Flynn
4. H. Santos
5. Col. J. V. Grombach, USA
6. W. H. Goldsmith

## Foil\*

1. A. R. Snyder
2. W. A. Dow
3. L. Kellerman
4. C. Ettinger
5. B. Burt
6. W. H. Goldsmith

## Sabre\*

1. T. Nyilas
2. Lt. N. C. Armitage, USNR
3. M. A. de Capriles
4. B. Krieger
5. J. H. Flynn
6. N. Muray

## 1942-43 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss H. Mayer
2. Miss H. Mroczkowska
3. Miss M. Dalton
4. Mrs. D. Funke
5. Miss G. Acel
6. Miss M. I. Stewart
7. Miss P. Sweeney
8. Miss M. Cerra
9. Miss R. Maxwell
10. (Mrs. D. Centrelo  
(Miss D. Wahl

## Epee

1. H. Santos
2. F. L. Linkmeyer
3. R. S. Driscoll
4. M. A. de Capriles
5. P. Costigan
6. P. Tishman
7. P. Mijer
8. R. Goldstein
9. A. Skrobisch
10. (J. V. Grombach  
(L. Tingley

## Foil

1. W. A. Dow
2. J. R. Huffman
3. S. Giolito
4. C. Ettinger
5. D. Every
6. R. Goldstein
7. J. Mau
8. N. L. Lewis
9. B. Krieger
10. A. Axelrod

## Sabre

1. N. C. Armitage
2. T. Nyilas
3. J. R. Huffman
4. J. H. Flynn
5. G. V. Worth
6. N. Muray
7. M. A. de Capriles
8. R. E. Marson
9. E. S. Acel
10. (N. Lazar  
(P. Lubart

## 1945-46 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss M. Cerra
2. Mrs. H. M. Dow
3. Miss M. Dalton
4. Miss R. Sweeney
5. Miss H. Brackley
6. Miss D. Lancaster
7. Mrs. D. Funke
8. Miss D. Wahl
9. Miss R. A. Maxwell

## Epee\*

1. M. Gilman
2. J. H. Flynn
3. F. Linkmeyer
4. B. Burt
5. A. Skrobisch
6. H. Santos

## Foil\*

1. D. Every
2. A. R. Snyder
3. W. A. Dow
4. N. Lubell
5. T. Nyilas
6. C. Ettinger

## Sabre\*

1. Lt. N. C. Armitage, USNR
2. T. Nyilas
3. J. H. Flynn
4. A. Muray
5. B. Krieger
6. Lt. Cdr. F. Lombaer, USNR

## 1943-44 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss H. Mroczkowska
2. Miss M. Cerra
3. Miss M. Dalton
4. Miss R. Maxwell
5. Miss G. Acel
6. Mrs. D. Funke
7. Miss D. Lancaster
8. Miss P. Sweeney
9. Miss D. Wahl
10. (Miss D. Kerfoot  
(Miss A. Condosta

## Epee\*

1. R. S. Driscoll
2. G. Flynn
3. A. von Munchhausen
4. B. Burt
5. R. Goldstein
6. G. Wlodyga

## Foil\*

1. W. A. Dow
2. A. R. Snyder
3. T. Nyilas
4. R. Kaplan
5. W. H. Goldsmith
6. A. Axelrod

## Sabre\*

1. N. C. Armitage
2. T. Nyilas
3. G. V. Worth
4. J. H. Flynn
5. P. Lubart
6. N. Muray

## 1946-47 SEASON

## Women

1. Miss H. Mayer
2. Mrs. H. M. Dow
3. Miss R. A. Maxwell
4. Miss P. Craus
5. Miss M. Cerra
6. Miss P. Sweeney
7. Miss M. Dalton
8. Mrs. G. Acel Kelly
9. Miss H. Brackley
10. Miss D. Wahl

## Epee

1. A. Wolff
2. J. R. de Capriles
3. T. Jaeckel
4. R. S. Driscoll
5. B. Burt
6. J. Strauch
7. F. Linkmeyer
8. R. Goldstein
9. A. Skrobisch
10. H. Santos

## Foil

1. J. R. de Capriles
2. N. Lubell
3. D. Cetrulo
4. D. Every
5. T. Nyilas
6. W. A. Dow
7. R. Goldstein
8. A. Balk
9. R. Ozol
10. C. Ettinger

## Sabre

1. T. Nyilas
2. J. R. de Capriles
3. N. C. Armitage
4. D. Cetrulo
5. S. T. Stewart
6. J. H. Flynn
7. G. V. Worth
8. A. Deladria
9. S. Giambra
10. R. Goldstein



TRACY JAECKEL

Tracy Jaeckel, aptly called the "Ambassador" of fencing in the President's annual message, is the Foreign Secretary of the AFLA.

A famous furrier, his business interests necessitate extensive travels abroad and his personal contacts with leaders of the International Federation have made him a very valuable asset to the League.

In 1948 he became the first American ever to be appointed a member of the Directoire Technique, the august body which has charge of conducting the Olympic Fencing Games. In this capacity he received the highest praise for his excellent services and advanced considerably the prestige of American fencing. He was recently appointed to the FIE Commission on Presidents of Juries.

Tracy has been one of our most consistent top-notch epee fencers during the last twenty years. Captain of the 1928 Princeton team, he gave his Alma Mater its first Intercollegiate title when he was crowned Epee Champion that same year. He was Treasurer of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and has remained an influential figure in the intercollegiate field. He represents the N. Y. Fencers Club and is one of its Governors. He was a member of the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Teams, and was on the 1934 U. S. Team which defeated Great Britain. A finalist and medalist in numerous National Cham-tied for the title but was turned back in a fence-off. An evaluation of his fencing, made by the Olympic coach in 1936, gives us a good description of Tracy as a person: "Jaeckel's success is primarily due to his calm, purposeful spirit. He is a strategist of a very superior sort and although his technique is of a very high order it is because of his judgment rather than his technical skill that he is successful."

It is that mature judgment and sound fencing knowledge which is now serving the League so well. J. R. deC.

\*Only six places awarded due to curtailed activity during the War.

(To be concluded in next issue.)

## WHY NOT TRY A STRAIGHT LUNGE?

By DERNELL EVERY

(Ed. Note: Good advice bears repetition. This article was first published in 1939 in the old *Riposte*. We believe the present competitors should take it to heart.)

In baseball, have you ever seen a runner on first easing off toward second base? The right-handed pitcher with his back toward first base appears indifferent to the runner or how far off-base he goes. Such, however, is not the case. Suddenly he whirls, throws to first and the runner is out. There was no luck in this. It was a mathematical certainty based upon timing, distance and speed. The pitcher might have appeared indifferent to the runner but the third baseman and the catcher had been very alert to his position. Let the runner advance one inch beyond a certain known distance and the catcher or third baseman signals the pitcher and Mr. Base Runner is a sure "out." We know that a ball can travel faster than a runner. Therefore, no runner can beat the ball back to first base once he has transgressed a certain limit by as little as one inch. The same thing is applicable to fencing. Let an

cerned. This starting time may vary considerably within the same fencer from day to day with discouraging unpredictability. It is this variation in reaction time which accounts in great measure for our being "on" or "off" from day to day or from competition to competition. It, of course, varies considerably between individuals.

This article is limited primarily to the efficacy of a straight lunge. Thus far we have dealt with the problem of the defense and why that defense, which is apparently simple, contains difficulties. Now let us take up the straight lunge itself and what we mean by it. We may be going contrary to general fencing vocabulary, but we mean a direct lunge into the opponent's open line without a preliminary advance. It may be necessary to disengage or even coupe into the open line or the line may be open for a lunge without a disengage. For our purpose, we, therefore, consider any direct or simple lunge or a lunge with disengage as a "straight lunge."

If we are correct in our contention

lunge speed or the extension speed, although less than the sum total of both.

The classical French School may rise up in wrath at the implication of the above paragraph. This School insists that the arm be extended first and the lunge start at near-termination of the extension resulting in a constant foil speed. The modern French and Italian Schools, whether they are willing to say so in writing or not, practice a straight lunge by starting the arm and front leg forward together. The start is slow and harmless looking, it gathers speed as it goes and ends at top speed. Your classical French Foilsmen would shudder and murmur, "Bent arm attack" if he saw this done. However, the fact is that it is being done and very effectively.

Do not take this to mean that every attack is executed in this way. This applies only to the straight lunge as we mean it in this article. For attacks with deception such as the double and the one-two, the arm must be fully extended before the lunge. This is necessary to draw the parry which the second motion is to deceive.



opponent come one inch closer to you than he should, or you creep in one inch closer to him than he should allow and a straight lunge will beat his parry every time.

How quickly can you parry a straight lunge? Very quickly, you think, and you are right, but have you added the time you need to see the necessity for the parry? That is important and we shall test its importance with a simple experiment. Have a friend hold a fencing glove against a wall, fingers down, at about sword height. Stand back from the wall with your foil pointed at the glove's finger. How far away? Only an inch. Now have your friend drop the glove without warning and try to hit any part of it before it passes your foil. This experiment should prove to you that a lot can happen before you can start a foil into action.

If we add this starting time or inertia of a parry to the parry itself we have a sizeable total insofar at least as the split-second totals in fencing are con-

cerned. that a straight lunge is as fast or faster than a parry then there must be much greater speed in a lunging foil than in a parrying foil. To arrive on the target a lunging foil must move forward from between three to four feet in less time than a parrying foil can move inches. Is it possible that we may have here a ratio comparable to that between the baseball and the runner? Perhaps not, but we do know that a lunging foil travels faster than the lunge itself. We would all be very much surprised to know just how fast a foil point went forward at its maximum in a lunge.

A foil has two sources of power, one from the extension of the arm and the other from the push of the body which is being propelled forward by the straightening of the back leg. All of us can testify as to the terrific speed in a foil merely from the extension of the arm. This is evident from any direct riposte. We also know that a well executed lunge can be fast. Now blend the two and we have a greater speed than either the

There are two arguments frequently used against the bent arm attack; one is that you have no right of way until your arm is extended and, therefore, any stop thrust would be against you and the other is that it is dangerous. An important element of the modern straight lunge is its surprise not only in time but in intent. It comes so fast that a stop thrust must be planned in advance. Even so, opposition just short of blade contact, can be practiced so that even the threat of a stop-thrust can be eliminated. There is no more danger in this direct lunge than in any other lunge. There is no jab or poke to this attack. The arm is straight when the point lands. It hasn't been straight for as great a part of the attack as before, but it is straight and there is none of the jab which makes the real bent-arm attack taboo.

(1) It is the most direct and fastest attack that a fencer can make.

(2) It is easy to judge. Your judge will see a hit from a straight lunge more easily than any other touch. You may

fail to receive credit for some good touches made by more complicated methods since the movements that fooled your opponent may also have fooled the judge. A straight lunge carries no element to fool a judge.

(3) It is daring. Few opponents give you credit for being able to hit them with a straight lunge. They consider a straight lunge as risky for you and not for them. Therefore, they do not expect you to try it. They usually anticipate something more complicated. This helps you for they tend to hesitate in their parry, believing that your action is only a feint.

(4) It is embarrassing. A hit with a straight lunge undermines your opponent's morale. He loses his confidence if you show him that you can hit him with the first thing in the book.

(5) It limits your opponent's offensive. With a straight lunge threatening at all times, he dares not fool around but must confine himself to close play. You may thus have cut his bag of tricks in half.

The straight lunge may be used defensively as well as offensively. Many fencers overlook its potentialities as a defensive weapon. Let us explain. An opponent is pressing you hard. He is intent upon the attack and your retreats or parries do not seem to alter his intention. He has shown ability to hit and temporarily seems to have taken your number. In other words, he has the psychological upper hand and you are at a loss for the moment as to any plan or tactics. Why not make a straight lunge every time he seems about set to come at you, not necessarily to make a touch but rather to disrupt his plan, to confuse him, to gain time?

Some of our readers, professionals and amateurs alike, may say that this article thus far has been interesting and theoretically correct (we hope) but pooh-pooh it insofar as actual practice is concerned. "It sounds well, but who is going to fall for a straight attack? Any-

one is crazy to risk a straight lunge against a parry-riposte." To refute any accusations of being only a rocking-chair fencing philosopher we should like to cite a classical example of its use.

We consider Gustavo Marzi of Italy as the finest and most consistently strong amateur fencer of his day. In the 1936 Olympics he was faced by a situation most unusual for him. His opponent was leading him with a score of 4-0. All of his well-planned and well-executed attacks had failed to score. He was apparently up against an opponent whose offense and defense that particular day were better than his own. He did not lose the bout. He made the next five touches with straight lunges proving, I hope, that the straight lunge is not too elementary to be used by or to be effective against the best fencers.

Our own American Senior fencers are not above its use. On the contrary, they recognize its great value and depend upon it more than Novices and Juniors do.

In practicing straight lunges in your lessons and exercises do not look upon them merely as drill. Remember that, although they are the first thing you were taught, they are also used effectively in every competition by men who could spot you three touches every bout.

The use of the straight lunge is not going to change you overnight into a Marzi. You are going to become very disappointed with it when it fails to win for you, as it will fail. That failure will be due to your poor sense of timing and after trying and failing with poorly timed straight lunges you will want to put them aside as suicidal. Do so in competition, if necessary, but resolve to perfect your timing in the meantime. When practicing free play or bouting in the salle, concentrate on some straight attacks. Don't tell your partner what you plan to do but see if you cannot "steal" a few straight touches when he is napping. Analyze your failures to see whether your timing was poor, your legs were

lazy, your arm came out too soon and awoke your partner's parry too early or a combination of these. This concentration with one purpose is good fun and wonderful training. Mix it up a bit so that your partner won't be all set for just the one thing and don't care if he hits you more times than you hit him.

And now we come to an important discovery you should make during this practice. In fact it is so important that it should have been featured earlier in this essay. You will find that while you are standing in good guard, waiting, shifting distance and watching for just the right moment to lunge at your partner, most of the attacks he throws at you will rattle off your blade harmlessly. You will find yourself safer from his attacks while concentrating upon your offense than had you been concentrating upon your defense: you are so intent upon hitting him that you ignore all movements of his that don't threaten your actual target. In other words, you withhold your parry and cease to bite on every will-of-the-wisp feint your opponent makes. You are intent on distance primarily and will, therefore, probably step back when your opponent starts. You are theoretically hittable by only one type of attack, a simple attack such as another straight lunge or a beat-lunge. By confining your thoughts to the straight lunge you will, at the same time, confine your opponent's effectiveness to the same simplicity. This is a fencing axiom that unfortunately is overlooked by a majority of the amateurs and professionals today.



## *Salle Santelli*

wishes to extend its privileges to all college and out-of-town fencers at the Henry Hudson Hotel Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, or at the 165 Spring Street address other times during the holidays.

GEORGE SANTELLI and the SALLE SANTELLI wish to give Christmas greetings to all fencing instructors and members of the Amateur Fencing League of America.

## AN OPEN MESSAGE TO COACHES

By MAXWELL R. GARRET

President, National Fencing Coaches Association of America (NFCAA)

Our Association, like our careers, our homes, our lives, will be what we make it. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm; nor was anything lasting or important accomplished without some struggle and sacrifice. Importance should not only be attached to what we get but also to what we give. The active fencing coaches in this country, the majority of whom compose the NFCAA, labor more because of their interest in the sport than for any other reason. It is through their efforts that many of our present and future fencing stars have and will be inculcated with the necessary background toward becoming a potential Olympian, and it is from this nucleus of American coaches where fencing's healthy growth can and should develop.

H. H. Powers in his "Florentine Rev-ery" states: "The practical and the ideal; between these two there is no reconciliation save in the finished work which their common effort has wrought. . . . There are no ideal organizations, because there are no ideal people to organize. . . . He who would be a doer of real things with real men must be a practical man; he must take men as they are."

This statement might well serve as a process of education in a democracy—taking men as they are and helping them become what they ought to be; taking imperfect conditions, complacent attitudes, downright resistance to change, and other characteristics, and cause them to move toward ever-widening horizons of perfection. This truly is the fixed, yet ever-changing principal objective of the National Fencing Coaches Association of America.

In 1941 when the NFCAA was organized, it seemed apparent that if fencing were to attain the same status as the other sports, teachers and coaches would have to assume the responsibility for establishing high standards of selection, preparation, certification, and public service, and enforce those standards. Holding the unique position it does of accepting into membership any male amateur or professional who is instructing fencing on any level, it could become the voice of the teaching profession in the U. S. in the determination of professional standards in fencing through stimulation, participation and the free interchange of ideas.

For what then shall we be responsible? It will be our responsibility to acquire and constantly enlarge our knowledge of fencing, and to transmit this knowledge to the students. This responsibility should also include effective and honest procedures of self-education; of research, and of teaching. Though the response to this responsibility is largely on individual achievement, the Association should advance suggestions and specifications as to how these responsibilities can be met.



Your president conceived the aims therefore of the NFCAA to be as follows and if he has the wrong perspective it will be your responsibility to correct these views:

1. To be literate about the administration, general functioning and overall objectives of the NFCAA, NCAA, Amateur Fencers League of America, International Federation d' Esmine and other organizations concerned with fencing.
2. To offer constructive plans for advancing fencing.
3. To be aware that the NFCAA is no better than its members, and therefore we should view our responsibilities closely and objectively as we view our rights and privileges.
4. To permit experimentation and research in the field of fencing.
5. As a selling and promotional organization, its members and the public should become cognizant of all new trends—with special emphasis upon the values of participation.

There must be mutual understanding and national cooperation among and between all the fencing coaches and their students for the sport to thrive. National unity in thought and action would create for fencing a national spirit which would have no rival elsewhere in the world.

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### INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 54th Championships of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association are to be held at West Point on March 16th and 17th.

The 7th Championships of the National Collegiate Athletic Association will be held at the University of Illinois on March 30th and 31st.

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### All-Eastern Intermediate Finals

- Feb. 17—Foil Team. 1:30 PM. Plainfield HS (9 St.) N. J.  
Feb. 18—Women's Indiv. 1:30 PM. Waterbury YMCA, Conn.  
Feb. 24—Women's Team. 1:30 PM. YMCA (53 Wash. St.)  
Newark, N. J.  
Feb. 25—Sabre Team. 1:30 PM. New Haven YMCA, Conn.  
Mar. 3—Epee. 1:30 PM. H.S. (Bloomfield Ave.) Verona, N. J.  
Mar. 4—Foil. 1:30 PM. Drexel Institute (32 & Chestnut) Phila.  
Mar. 10—Epee Team. 1:30 PM. H.S. (9 St.) Plainfield, N. J.  
Mar. 11—Sabre. 1:30 PM. Drexel Institute (32 & Chestnut) Phila.



## METROPOLITAN FENCERS PLEASE NOTE

By **GEORGE V. WORTH**

Chairman, Metropolitan Executive Committee

We have decided to do everything in our power to conduct Metropolitan competitions in the most efficient way possible and have undertaken to enforce the rules to the letter. Experience in the first few events indicates that if everyone continues to co-operate we can expect a pleasant fencing season for all. Many of our older fencers have been permitted to develop bad habits over the years and we especially call the following rules to their attention so that they will not cry "surprise" if they violate the rules are barred from competing.

1. All entries must be accompanied by the entry fee (except where such fee is automatically charged to a club), and must reach Mr. Chester L. Tuthill, 509 West 121 Street at least one week in advance of the date set for the competition. No fees are collected at the events.
2. Strips will be made up ahead of time by the chairman in charge of that weapon and anyone failing to report to the Bout Committee at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled starting time will be scratched. A scratched competitor loses his entry fee.
3. Fencers appearing in soiled uniforms or having unsafe equipment will not be

allowed to compete. Martingales or straps in all foil events are obligatory.

Listed below you will find the various committees responsible for the conduct of competitions. All the members are willing to put forth great effort in their appointed tasks and in return we hope that all fencers and judges will co-operate with them.

### Executive Committee

George V. Worth, Chairman, Dorothy Friedman, Secretary, Chester Bernstein, General Bout Committee Chairman, Daniel Bukantz, Pat Bencivenga, Oscar Kolombatovich.

### Foil Bout Committee

Dorothy Friedman, Chairman, Bessie Aboulafia, Frank Bavuso, Sol Gorlin, Frank McGrath, Daniel Rubinstein.

### Epee Bout Committee

Dolly Funke and Allan Kwartler, Co-Chairmen, William Latzko, J. Richard Lutz, Robert Neilsen, Wilfred Ritayik, Martha Rothman.

### Sabre Bout Committee

James Strauch, Chairman, Pat Bencivenga, Abe Cohen, Leni Sobel, Arthur Spingarn, Robert Zaum.

### Women's Bout Committee

Larry Olvin, Chairman, Frank Biladello, Martin Brandeis, Eve Cohen, Silvio Gialito, Neil Lazar, Eliot Miller.

## Van Buskirk Prep

Miss Joan MacDonald, N.Y.U., went through undefeated to win the Evelyn Van Buskirk gold medal. Helen Eto, Saltus, placed second and Sydell Herman, N.Y.U., won third on touches over Eleanor Weinstock, unattached. Thirteen competed.

### Final Round

Joan MacDonald, N.Y.U., 5-0; Helen Eto, Saltus, 3-2; Sydell Herman, N.Y.U., 2-3 (14 against, 13 for); Eleanor Weinstock, unattached, 2-3 (14 against, 13 for); Constance Benton, Center, 2-3 (15 against); Esther Lelah, unattached, 1-4.

### Other Entries

Moskowitz, Pruitt (Hunter); Palmer, Zeleznik (NYU); P. Klein, R. Klein, Spolen (unattached).

## Spingarn Wins Novice Sabre

Arthur Spingarn, Fencers Club, won the Norman C. Armitage gold medal for the Novice Sabre after a three-way tie. Robert Zaum, Mercado, finished second and Irving Ackerman, C.C.N.Y., third. Thirty-one competed.

### Final Round

(Unfortunately, first names were not reported.)

A. Spingarn, F. C., 6-2; R. Zaum, Mercado, 6-2; I. Ackerman, C.C.N.Y., 6-2; M. Slattery, F. C., 5-3; J. Krajcir, Columbia, 4-4; R. Schafer, Columbia, 3-4; J. Leibel, Columbia, 3-5; I. Gray, unattached, 2-5; E. Epstein, Philadelphia, 0-8.

**Fence-off:** Spingarn d. Ackerman 5-2 and Zaum 5-1; Zaum d. Ackerman 5-3.

### Other Entries

R. Good, J. Lancaster, J. McGinty, F. Mugler, L. Padula, A. Rhodes (Riverdale); L. Burges, B. Gelenter, B. Schack, W. Thomas (N.Y.U.); D. Chamberlin, G. Economikes (Columbia); J. Bodler, O. Kolombatovich (N.Y.A.C.); J. Lostaglio, M. Pavloff (Saltus); H. Cohen (Brooklyn College); F. Schmukler (C.C.N.Y.); R. Reed (Santelli); W. Latzko (Haudegen); A. Olsen (Cooper Union); W. Vizzard (unattached).

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## Piperno Wins Nunes Prep

Carlo Piperno, CCNY, defeated Sheldon Taylor, NYU, in a fence-off to win the Prep Foil competition for the Leo G. Nunes medals. The event, held at the NYAC, attracted 30 contestants. Third place went to Herman Wallner, NYU, on touches.

### Final Round

Carlo Piperno, CCNY, 7-1; Sheldon Taylor, NYU, 7-1; Herman Wallner, NYU, 5-3 (25 against); Carl Barnes, NYU, 5-3 (26 against); Bernard Schoeck, NYU, 5-3 (31 against); Allen Gehn, NYU, 3-5; Frank Lane, Saltus, 2-6; Irwin Abrams, NYU, 1-7 (37 against); Wilbur Cetti, Rhodes, 1-7 (38 against).

**Fence-off:** Piperno d. Taylor 5-3.

### Other Entries

Hans Aschenberg, Jack Benozo, Edward Gadowsky, Herman Schmukler, Roy Schwartz (CCNY); Robert Bernard, Robert Miller, Walter Poznar (NYU); Theodore Farr, Delbert Footer, Donald McCall (Rhodes); Wallace Dow, Oscar Kolombatovich (NYAC); William Boyens, Erwin Miller, Sol Rubin (Center); James Hunt, Victor Liguori, Arnold Olsen (Cooper Union); Ernest Liebow (Turn-Verein); Hal Cortez (Saltus).

## Novice Sabre Team

The Saltus-McBurney Club (Bencivenga, Brandeis, Lostaglio, Tannehill) won the Novice Sabre Team competition for the J. M. Castello trophy from a field of eight teams. The superiority of the winning combination was demonstrated when it completed the final round-robin of four without losing a single bout.

### Final Round

Saltus d. NYU "A" 5-0, Fencers Club 5-0 and CCNY 5-0; Fencers Club (Bavuso, Slattery, Spingarn, Van Leer) d. NYU "A" 5-0 and CCNY 5-1; CCNY (Itzkowitz, Roher, Schmukler) and NYU "A" (Galenter, Schoeck, Thomas) lost all.

### Other Entries

Brooklyn College (Cohan, Hemindinger, Miller); Riverdale School (Goode, Lancaster, McGinty); NYU "B" (Burgess, Glaza, Miller); Composite (Gray, Latzko, Lutz).

### Salle Santelli

The Salle Santelli announces that it has increased its number of sessions this year to three per week. Fencing will take place on Monday (8:30 to 11) Wednesday (5:30 to 8:30) and Friday (7 to 11) at the Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 West 57th Street.

The Salle extends non-resident privileges to AFLA members.

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## Epee Technicians

George Santelli and James Castello have been appointed technicians in charge of all epee competitions held in the Metropolitan area. They will be responsible for setting up the equipment, testing contestants' weapons and making necessary on-the-spot adjustments. Any major repairs to weapons or cords must of course be paid for by the individual. In order to avoid confusion, Mr. Santelli has been given all competitions up to and including March 3rd, and Mr. Castello will take over for the balance of the season. The present arrangement does not include the National Championship Week.

Epee's must be checked a half hour before starting time. No epees will be tested after 5 minutes before competition is scheduled to start.

## Novice Epee Team

Brooklyn College (Charles Datner, Lou Krukowski, Elliot Miller, George Siegel) won the novice epee team event for the Jose de Capriles trophy. The winners turned back the Fencers Club (Paul Gallico, William McGonigle, Joachim Titoto) 5-4 in the deciding match after having bowed to them 5-1 in the preliminary round. Six teams competed.

### Final Round

Brooklyn d. Mercado 5-2, Saltus-McBurney 5-3, and Fencers Club 5-4; Fencers Club d. Saltus 4-4 (by 1 touch), and Mercado 6-2; Saltus-McBurney (A. Scibello, S. Stephens, M. Tannehill) and Mercado (S. Dier, S. Gilbert, B. Stein) did not fence each other.

### Other Entries

N.Y.U. "A" (Dallinger, Wallner, Wertlieb); N.Y.U. "B" (Bernard, Pozner, Wertheim).

## Stephens Wins Novice Epee

Steve Stephens, Saltus-McBurney, won the Robert S. Driscoll gold medal for Novice Epee. The other five finalists were all tied with two victories each, and placed in the following order on the count of touches: E. Dollinger, N.Y.U., (11 against, 12 for); Bernard Stein, Mercado, (11 against, 7 for); Daniel Chafetz, Columbia, (12 against, 13 for); A. Wertlieb, N.Y.U., (12 against, 11 for); George Seigel, Brooklyn College, (12 against, 11 for). Twenty-two competed.

**Other entries:** Murray Flatow, Alfred Lobl, George Lucas, Albert Scibello (Saltus); Burton Lipman, Jaromir Sevcik, Sherwin Simmons (Columbia); Frank Bavuso, Werner Wolf (Fencers Club); R. Bernard, H. Wallner (N.Y.U.); Sheldon Dier, Sheldon Gilbert (Mercado); William Latzko, J. Richard Lutz (Haudegen); John Lankester (Riverdale).

Chester L. Tuthill, the League's Executive Secretary, and his charming wife Henrietta are proud to announce the birth of a new fencer on October 3rd. Name is Paul Clifford Tuthill.

# News from the Divisions

## Southern California

The following is the Executive Committee for the 1950-51 season:

Fred Linkmeyer, Chairman  
Maxine Mitchell, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Rice, Secretary  
C. D. Heckman, Treasurer  
Polly Craus  
William Morey

The 1950-1951 season of Southern California Championships has gotten off to a good start with results in the first competitions as follows:

### Prep Foil

1. J. Arthur Morris ..... Los Angeles A. C.
2. John Huntzicker ..... Ingle-Airs
3. Robert T. Haun ..... Cavaliers

### Women's Prep Foil

1. Phyllis Bowman ..... Ingle-Airs
2. Mrs. Marion Kline ..... Ingle-Airs
3. Sylvia Gross ..... Greco Fencing School

### Novice Foil

1. J. Arthur Morris ..... Los Angeles A. C.
2. Alberto Urenda ..... Los Angeles A. C.
3. Paul Breitman ..... Cavaliers

### Women's Novice Foil

1. Iris Munsom ..... Ingle-Airs
2. Peggy Nelson ..... Cavaliers
3. Paula Mason ..... Faulkner School of Fencing

### Junior Foil

1. David Rice ..... Los Angeles A. C.
2. Torao Mori ..... Los Angeles A. C.
3. William Lundeberg ..... Cavaliers

### Junior Foil Team

1. Hollywood Athletic Club — Robert Smits, Clarence Heckman and Douglas Jumelet (Duris de Jong, coach).

### Novice Epee

1. J. Humphries ..... Faulkner School of Fencing
2. S. de Bellis ..... Ingle-Airs
3. W. Morey ..... Ingle-Airs

## THE INGLE-AIR DRAGONS

By HARRY T. KLEIN

This club, located in Inglewood (the "Air Capital of the World"), is a comparative newcomer to the local fencing scene. It was started by William Stratton, of Faulkner's, and is now being coached by Mr. John McKee. It has one of the largest memberships in the Division and the results posted above indicate how well it is progressing.

## COMMENTS ABOUT JUDGING . . .

We will from time to time set forth some thoughts which may help to standardize judging methods. First and foremost, we suggest that all fencers study the Rules Book carefully. Unfortunately too many juries are composed of men and women full of good intentions and the desire to help out but without adequate preparation for the task at hand. It is hoped that the suggestions contained herein will facilitate and improve your effectiveness as officials.

**The judge's position:** The judge should be four or five feet to the side, and a little behind the opponent of the fencer he is watching. He should maintain this relative position as the contestants move up and down the strip. In this position he will never interfere with the director's ability to see the play of both fencers and, at the same time, will be out of range of a wild swing of the blade. In the recommended position the judge is able to see the defensive action of one fencer and the offensive game of the

other and is thus able to follow the play and the touches.

**Valid and foul touches in foil:** The rules prescribe the valid foil target and require that a judge signal both valid and foul touches. What constitutes a valid touch? The rules state it must land squarely on the target. This does not mean it must be made so that a blind man could see it; as the fencing tempo increases hits are often scored barely ahead of the parry. The best rule of thumb is that the hit would have punctured if the point had been sharp. This means the point must reach with a discernible amount of pressure and a flat touch, a slap, a pass or a graze are not good hits. Care should be taken, however, not to call "flat" those hits in which the point reaches the target with forward motion but at an acute angle. What constitutes a foul touch? Whether or not a point has landed on invalid target is determined in the same manner as described above but not all hits on invalid

## Mid West Fencing

By SCOTT D. BRECKINRIDGE, JR.  
Vice-President, AFLA

The fencing season in the Mid West promises to be one of unusual activity. The qualifying rounds for the Pan American games provide an important fencing competition early in the season and get things off to a flying start.

The Mid West is proud of its new official championship medal. Seeking a new and distinctive design for its official trophy, the Mid West Section approved a design by Dick Watson, Michigan Division fencer. The medal is round, with a Grecian war helmet imposed in relief upon a plain background. Authority has been given to have permanent dies made from which future medals will be struck.

Add to the list of "Elder Statesmen" of active fencers published in the October issue of "American Fencing" (page 9), the name of Dr. Herbert Sanborn, Mid West fencer. Dr. Sanborn is the retired head of the Department of Philosophy and Psychology at Vanderbilt University, where he still serves as volunteer coach of the college's fencing team. Dr. Sanborn, in his 78th year, has been an active and dangerous competitor in the Kentucky divisional tournament for the last three years and is expected to enter again next spring.

## Central Illinois

By ESTELLE ATKIN  
Division Secretary

L. Atkin won the Open Foil and Divisional Qualifying Round for Pan American Games tryouts on October 19. J. Quiros and R. Meyer tied for second and placed in the order named on touches. Thirteen competed.

**Entries:** L. Atkin, J. Quiros, R. Meyer, A. Mills, R. Heinz, J. Ross, K. Aksel, R. Hoppe, R. Nelson, L. Silverman, R. Smith, C. Swensen, J. Thomas.

The Open Sabre was won by Dr. Raymond Siever who thus qualified for the Pan American tryouts in Chicago early next year. Eleven fencers, mainly students and faculty members of the U. of Illinois, made this one of the keenest sabre meets this Division has had. Jorge Quiros placed second and Bruce Sublette was third.

**Final Round:** Siever 4-1; Quiros 3-2; Sublette 3-2; Kemal Aksel 2-3; Werner Meyer 1-4; E. Baer 1-4.

**Other Entries:** R. Eirich, C. Keener, A. Mills, J. Thomas, P. Voisard.

## Pacific International Tournament

By JOHN C. ECKHART  
Secretary, Seattle Division

The fifth Annual Pacific International was held for the first time in Seattle, Washington. Fencers from Vancouver, B. C., Spokane, Portland and Seattle participated in the three-day event.

Mike Mamlouk of Egypt, and now of Fort Worden, left Seattle with the first place trophies for Epee and Sabre. Bill Modrell of the Seattle YMCA tied Mamlouk in the Sabre but the latter scored the winning touch after a close bout which went to 4-all.

In the Epee Mamlouk was tied with Jack Nottingham of the Aldo Nadi Salle (Southern California) and the two men fenced off four times before Mamlouk was declared the winner. Bill Modrell was third.

The Open Foil was won by Dan Drumheller of the Spokane F. C. without a single defeat. Jack Nottingham was second and Mike Mamlouk third.

In the Three-Weapon, Jack Nottingham was undefeated. Bill Modrell placed second and Bob Simpson of the Vancouver Hollyburn Sword Club was third.

The women's Open Foil was won easily by Katherine Modrell of the Seattle YMCA. Second went to Miss Dolores Kane, a new fencer from the Spokane F. C., and third to Miss Joyce Davies of the Vancouver Hollyburn Sword Club.

The men's Junior Foil went to Bill Modrell who was undefeated. Second was won by Raymond G. Coates of the Washington A. C. and third by Don Firth, unattached. Firth is a victim of infantile paralysis and cannot lunge, but his defensive game is first-rate. He provokes an attack and has a deadly parry-riposte. Hats off to Mr. Firth.

The women's Junior Foil was won by Mrs. Raymond G. Coates of the Washington A. C. Miss Patricia Hall of the same club finished second, and Miss Vicki Meatherhall of the Vancouver Blades Club was third.

## Washington, D. C.

By HAROLD NEWTON  
Division Secretary

The Women's Novice was won by Miss Jeanne Weiser, YMCA, when she defeated her club-mate Miss Estelle Silver 4-2 in a fence-off. The results of the regular round-robin were as follows:

Jeanne Weiser, YMCA, 3-1; Estelle Silver, YMCA, 3-1; Evelyn Hecht, Wash. F.C., 2-2; Sabina Godwin, Wash. F.C., 1-3; Elizabeth Tecszar, YMCA, 1-3.

The Men's Novice Foil was won by Daniel Lyons, Wash. F. C., without a defeat. The results of the final round were as follows:

Daniel Lyons, Wash. F. C., 5-0; Dr. Richard Iskraut, Wash. F. C., 4-1; Maj. Thomas Carhart, unatt., 3-2; Lt. Col. Thomas Hayes, Wash. F. C., 1-4; William McGarvey, Wash. F. C., 1-4; George Reynolds, YMCA, 0-5.

**Other entries:** Louis Buntzis, Charles Castello, Henry Kogucz, William Snedegar.

target are fouls. It is very important to determine whether the point was deflected to the invalid target by a parry. When a fencer attacks at a valid target and in parrying his opponent deflects the point too an invalid part of the body, the judge must not signal the touch for such hits are "parried foul" and do not stop the action or annul a valid touch that may follow. Jose de Capriles



## LET'S TALK about FOILS

The choice of a foil presents a complex problem. The novice at the beginning of his fencing career is generally influenced or told by his coach to fence with a certain type of foil. This may be a French, Italian, or pistol grip foil, depending upon which type his teacher prefers. This is quite right as a matter of fact; however, after some time, when this novice becomes a fencer, he develops certain characteristics. These characteristics are naturally stimulated by his coach, his fellow fencers, and the country in which he fences, but mainly by his own individuality; for fencing fundamentals are the same all over the world. It is this individual interpretation along with the above mentioned local influences which makes it look so varied.

At this stage the fencer ought to stop and consider what type foil is best suited for his kind of fencing. The French foil is held entirely by the power of the fingers and hand. It gives a great freedom of movement, but also requires more power and practice in order to handle it with ease and dexterity. The Italian and pistol grip foils are usually strapped to the wrist so that the weight of the foil is supported by the forearm. This enables the fencer to reserve the strength of the fingers to control the point of his foil.

Fencers who have an agile hand and powerful fingers and base their fencing, through their natural ability, mostly on actions with deceivements and finesse can well afford a French foil. For fencers of the violent and impetuous type and also fencers who haven't much time for practice or have weak fingers the Italian or pistol grip foil is preferable.

There are other factors, some of them important, which should not be

overlooked. One of them is that in a long tournament with innumerable entries where the fencer's hand is bound to tire, an Italian foil is more advantageous. This fact has been recognized by many French fencers. In fact there are many French fencers who use a pistol grip foil of some sort, and Roger Ducret, winner of the 1924 Paris Olympics, used an Italian foil. When he was asked why he was using an Italian foil his answer was, "My ancestors used a weapon with a cross-bar in their combat and only practiced with their fleurets, so why shouldn't I?" In these few words Ducret put a very good light on this issue. The French foil, being supported entirely by the strength of the fingers will develop the hand muscles; and, consequently, the control of the foil quicker than other foils. So it is a very good idea to start out with the French foil. However, in combat where you need all your resources, you might need something more solid in your hand.

If, however, as the fencer progresses and finds that the foil he is now using is not suited to his individual style, he should not cling to old traditions, but rather look at the problem broadly and make his choice of foil suit his own personal and individual needs. Traditions are beautiful institutions but are not entirely practical at times.

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## NATIONAL CALENDAR

(To meet popular demand, we will print the current schedule in each issue. **Note:** There are some changes in Metropolitan events in last issue.)

## DECEMBER

- 1—Conn. Women's Open. 7:30 PM. Waterbury YMCA.
- 2—Met. Junior Foil. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Conn. Open Foil. 1:30 PM. Yale U.  
Central Ill. Novice Foil. 2 PM. Gym Annex, Urbana.  
Columbia U. at Fordham U.
- 3—Met. Junior Epee. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Open Sabre. 2:30 PM. New Haven YMCA.  
Washington D. C. Junior Sabre. 2 PM. YMCA.
- 7—Wash. D. C. Women's Junior. 7 PM. Wash. F. C.
- 8—So. Cal. Junior Sabre. 8 PM. Los Angeles A. C.
- 9—N. Y. Pan American Epee tryout. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Central Ill. Open Foil Team. 2 P.M. Gym Annex, Urbana.  
Gulf Coast Women's Novice. 2 PM. Youth Center, Galveston.  
Gulf Coast Novice Foil. 2 PM. Youth Center, Galveston.  
Gulf Coast Prep Sabre. 3:30 PM. Youth Center, Galveston.  
Brooklyn College at Columbia U.  
Stevens Institute at Fordham U.
- 10—N. Y. Pan American Sabre tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Open Foil. 2 PM. Waterbury YMCA.  
Wash. D. C. Junior Foil. 2 PM. Wash. YMCA.
- 15—So. Cal. Women's Intermediate. 8 PM. Los Angeles A. C.  
So. Cal. Junior Sabre Team. 8 PM. Los Angeles A. C.
- 16—Met. Junior Sabre. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Maryland Prep Foil (time and place not reported).  
Fordham U. at Brooklyn College.  
Rutgers U. at Columbia U.
- 17—N. Y. Pan American Foil tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.

## JANUARY

- 5—So. Cal. Senior Foil. 8 PM. Cavaliers.  
Northeast High School at U. of Pennsylvania.
- 6—N. Y. Pan American Sabre tryout. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Conn. Open Foil. 1:30 PM. Yale U.  
Gulf Coast Novice Epee. 2 PM. Texas A & M.  
Gulf Coast Novice Sabre. 2 PM. Texas A & M.  
Maryland Novice Foil. (time and place not reported).  
Wash. D. C. Pan American Foil tryout. 2 PM. YMCA.  
Brooklyn College at Army.  
Columbia U. at C. C. N. Y.  
Haverford College at U. of Delaware.  
Lafayette U. at U. of Pennsylvania.  
Patterson Teachers at Fordham U.  
Princeton U. at Rutgers U.
- 7—N. Y. Pan American Foil tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Maryland Novice Epee, and Novice Sabre.  
Wash. D. C. Pan American Epee tryout. 2 PM. YMCA.  
Wash. D. C. Pan American Sabre tryout. 3:30 PM. YMCA.
- 10—Fordham U. at N. Y. U.  
Rutgers U. at Lehigh U.
- 12—So. Cal. Senior Epee. 8PM. Los Angeles A. C.
- 13—Met. Women's Open. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Maryland Open Three-Weapon.  
Gulf Coast Women's Open. 2 PM. St. Joseph's School.  
Gulf Coast Open Foil. 2 PM. St. Joseph's School.  
Gulf Coast Three-Weapon. 3:30 PM. St. Joseph's School.  
Brooklyn College at N. Y. U.  
Fordham U. at Army.  
Lehigh U. at Haverford College.  
Princeton U. at Navy.  
Rutgers U. at U. of Pennsylvania.  
Wesleyan U. at M. I. T.  
Yale U. at Columbia U.
- 14—N. Y. Pan American Epee tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.
- 19—Met. Women's Intermediate. 7 PM. Salle Santelli.  
Conn. Women's Open. 7:30 PM. Waterbury YMCA.  
So. Cal. Women's Senior. 8 PM. Cavaliers.  
So. Cal. Senior Sabre. 8 PM. Cavaliers.
- 20—N. Y. Pan American Epee tryout. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Gulf Coast Open Epee. 2 PM. Rice Institute.  
Gulf Coast Open Sabre. 3:30 PM. Rice Institute.  
Maryland Women's Prep.  
Army at Columbia U.  
Haverford College at Johns Hopkins U.  
Ohio State U. and Penn College at Oberlin College.  
U. of Pennsylvania at Navy.
- 21—N. Y. Pan American Foil tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Open Epee. 2:30 PM. New Haven YMCA.
- 27—N. Y. U. Annual High School Competition. 9:30 AM. N. Y. U.  
Michigan State U. at Ohio State U.  
U. of Virginia at Navy.
- 28—N. Y. Pan American Sabre tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Junior Foil. 2 PM. Waterbury YMCA.

## FEBRUARY

- 2—Met. Intermediate Epee. 7 PM. Salle Santelli.  
So. Cal. Intermediate Foil. 8 PM. Los Angeles A. C.
- 3—Met. Intermediate Foil. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Army at Princeton U.  
C. C. N. Y. at Brooklyn College.  
Haverford College at Temple U.  
Navy at Yale U.  
N. Y. U. at Rutgers U.  
Ohio State U. at Case Institute.  
Penn Charter School at U. of Pennsylvania.
- 4—Met. Intermediate Sabre. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Women's Junior. 2:30 PM. New Haven YMCA.  
Brooklyn College at Yeshiva U.
- 7—Rutgers U. at Yale U.  
N. Y. U. at Columbia U.
- 9—So. Cal. Intermediate Epee. 8 PM. Los Angeles A. C.  
M. I. T. at U. of Connecticut.  
U. of Illinois at Lawrence Tech.
- 10—Final, Pan American Sabre tryout. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
Maryland Junior Foil.  
Gulf Coast Women's Prep. 2 PM. Houston U.  
Gulf Coast Prep Foil. 2 PM. Houston U.  
Gulf Coast Prep Epee. 3:30 PM. Houston U.  
Columbia U. at Navy.  
Fordham U. at C. C. N. Y.  
Harvard U. at Bowdoin College.  
Lafayette U. at Haverford College.  
Notre Dame U. at Ohio State U.  
Penn State U. at N. Y. U.  
Princeton U. at U. of Pennsylvania.  
U. of Cincinnati at U. of Kentucky.  
U. of Illinois at Wayne U.  
Yale U. at Army.
- 11—Final Pan American Foil tryout. 12 noon. New York A. C.  
Conn. Junior Sabre. 2 PM. Waterbury YMCA.
- 12—Final Pan American Epee tryout. 12 noon. Fencers Club.  
U. of Illinois at Notre Dame U.
- 14—Lehigh U. at Penn State U.
- 15—Met. Women's (Sr. & Ranking only). 7 PM. Fencers Club.

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